

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6859

BILL NUMBER: HB 1563

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 19, 2013

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Fish and Wildlife Matters.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Eberhart

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FIRST SPONSOR:

FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
X DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: The bill makes the following provisions:

- (1) Repeals certain prohibitions against the possession or use of a silencer while in the act of hunting.
- (2) Provides that a person operating a watercraft or motorboat may not tow a person unless the total number of persons on the watercraft or motorboat and those being towed is less than or equal to the capacity of the watercraft.
- (3) Adds a designee of the Director of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) as a member of the Historic Preservation Review Board.
- (4) Allows DNR to include as "minnows" only those species of fish that DNR determines by rule.
- (5) Allows the Natural Resources Commission to set license fees to hunt certain birds.
- (6) Establishes an expiration date for certain licenses.
- (7) Removes provisions requiring nonresidents to purchase additional turkey hunting licenses and trapping licenses if the nonresident's state of residence requires the same of an Indiana resident. The bill also removes a provision that prohibits a nonresident from certain field activities with a dog if Indiana residents are not permitted to do the same in the nonresident's state.
- (9) Allows DNR to establish a date to submit a report of all purchases of furbearing mammals to DNR.
- (10) Removes certain provisions pertaining to unclaimed deer meat at a processing facility.
- (11) Provides that a person who takes or possesses a deer or wild turkey: (1) unlawfully; (2) by illegal methods; or (3) with illegal devices while using or possessing a silencer commits a Class C misdemeanor.
- (12) Makes hunting on private land without the permission of the owner a Class B misdemeanor if the person does so while using or possessing a silencer.
- (13) Provides that a person who acts as a water well pump installer without a license commits a Class B

misdemeanor.

Effective Date: July 1, 2013.

Explanation of State Expenditures: *Department of Natural Resources* - The bill contains several administrative provisions affecting DNR that should fall within DNR's routine rule-making functions. These include allowing the DNR Commissioner to appoint a designee to attend meetings of the Historic Preservation Review Board, updating the definition of a minnow, changing the expiration date of annual hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses, and changing the date reports are due to DNR from licensed fur buyers.

Repeal of Prohibition of Silencer Use While Hunting - The bill allows the use of a silencer while in the act of hunting. Current law states that use of a silencer (unless the hunter is an authorized employee of DNR or a federal wildlife management agency) is a Class C misdemeanor.

Explanation of State Revenues: *Unclaimed Deer* - Current law allows that unclaimed deer that is properly tagged may be given away by a meat processing facility. The bill disallows this practice. Noncompliance with this provision is a Class C misdemeanor and will also result in a \$500 penalty for the first violation and \$1,000 for each subsequent violation. Penalties under this provision will be deposited in the Conservation Officers Fish and Wildlife Fund.

Removal of Reciprocity Requirement for Nonresident Turkey Hunting Licenses, Trapping Licenses, and Field Activities with a Dog (Field Trials) - Current law requires that nonresidents who wish to turkey hunt, trap, or take part in field trials in Indiana must reside in states that provide similar privileges to Indiana residents or else they must purchase separate nonresident licenses or permits for those activities. The bill requires all nonresidents to purchase nonresident turkey hunting licenses, trapping licenses, and field trial permits, regardless of the reciprocity of other states.

This provision may increase revenues to DNR. Turkey hunting licenses for nonresidents are \$120 (\$25 for nonresident youth), and trapping licenses for nonresidents are \$140 (\$17 for nonresident youth). Field trial permits are \$10, regardless of state of residence.

Hunting Fees on Game Birds: The bill permits the Natural Resources Commission to increase the fees on hunting migratory waterfowl and game birds. New fee levels which may result will depend on the actions of the Natural Resources Commission.

Penalty Provisions: The bill makes it illegal for personal watercraft to be used on public waters to tow individuals engaged in waterskiing if the total number of people on the watercraft and being towed is more than the capacity of the watercraft. Violation of this provision is a Class C infraction.

The bill makes the illegal possession of deer or wild turkey a Class C misdemeanor. In addition, the bill makes hunting on private land without the permission of the owner a Class B misdemeanor if the person does so while using or possessing a silencer. The bill provides that a person who acts as a water well pump installer with a license commits a Class B misdemeanor.

Penalty Provisions: If additional court cases occur and fines are collected, revenue to both the Common School Fund (from fines), and the state General Fund (from court fees) would increase. The maximum fine for a Class C misdemeanor is \$500 and the maximum fine for a Class B misdemeanor is \$1,000. However, any additional revenue would likely be small.

The maximum judgment for a Class C infraction is \$500, which would be deposited in the state General Fund. However, any additional revenue is likely to be small.

Explanation of Local Expenditures: *Penalty Provisions:* A Class B misdemeanor is punishable by up to 180 days in jail, and a Class C misdemeanor is punishable by up to 60 days in jail.

Explanation of Local Revenues: *Penalty Provisions:* If additional court actions occur and a guilty verdict is entered, local governments would receive revenue from court fees. However, any change in revenue would likely be small.

State Agencies Affected: Department of Natural Resources.

Local Agencies Affected: Trial courts, local law enforcement agencies.

Information Sources:

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